

WORCESTER SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—The first annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of this institution was held on Wednesday in last week, in the Assembly-room, Guildhall, Worcester. Lord Ward, the president of the school, took the chair, and was supported by a numerous and influential party. A satisfactory report was read, and prizes were distributed. Lord Ward, Sir E. Lechmere, bart. the Rev. John Pearson, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting. Although this school was opened only about a year since by the master, Mr. Kyd, with two pupils in the mornings, and thirty to forty in the evenings, the return for October last was 172, and the average had increased from 165 in the previous month. Besides the works of the students exhibited at the meeting, there were various select paintings from the Dudley Gallery of Lord Ward on the walls.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of this society held last week, the chairman, on behalf of the council of the society, presented to Mr. Hanf. Price "Memorials of the Colleges and Halls in the University of Oxford," "in testimony of their appreciation of the sketch-book prepared by Mr. Price during the summer of 1852, and submitted in the competition promoted by the council amongst the student members of the society." Mr. Horner exhibited some fire-bricks of a light texture, and which would float in water. They were composed of a description of silicious earth, found in considerable quantity in Tuscany, near to where is supposed to be the centre of the site of old Etruria. Mr. Chantrell doubted whether, in consequence of the distance which it would have to be carried, the material could ever be brought into extensive use here. He thought it might be applied to the making of crucibles. Mr. Huggins read a portion of a paper "On some of the principles of composition, form, and decoration in architecture, with particular reference to ecclesiastical design, and the question of the embellishment of St. Paul's."

LEADS MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND LITERARY SOCIETY.—Mr. Yapp, of London, lately gave a lecture on the "Encouragement of Inventions," at this institution, with especial reference to the old and new patent laws; and in which he urged that it is eminently useful to offer premiums for the exercise of ingenuity in increasing the comforts of mankind, and to economize time and material, maintaining that the limited privileges granted to a patentee, as a compensation for his anxious labour, skill, and expenditure of capital, in the perfecting any useful invention, are not to be viewed as a monopoly. Mr. Yapp indicated several imperfections in the new law, and stigmatized the clumsy expedient of leaving a question essentially scientific and commercial, to be dealt with by the legal profession, with merely permissive power to consult authorities competent to give solid judgments on disputed points. The lecturer also strongly commended the whole subject to the members of Mechanics' Institutions, and showed that a field of enterprise was now opened up, in the cultivation of which the instruction afforded by the libraries, classes, and lectures might be turned to the most profitable account by the diligent and inquiring mechanic. —*Leeds Intelligencer.*

M. CAMILLE SEGUN, the well-known engineer, has just died, at the age of fifty-nine. He introduced the system of suspension-bridges into France, and constructed eighty-six of them in France, Spain, and Italy.

DRAINAGE TENDERS.—I beg to bad you for insertion in *THE BUILDER*, a list of tenders received for roads and glazed pipe sewers, to be formed and laid upon the Church of England and General Freehold Land Society's Estate, at Fitchley, Middlesex: Mr. Langford, architect:—

Martin	£500
Green	452
Marshall	450
Lovegrove	442
Pond	330
Brown	320
Gatfield	320
Murray (accepted)	309
Baum	225

A. B.

CONFERENCE OF GLASS MANUFACTURERS.—A large and important meeting of manufacturers of crown and sheet glass was held on 29th ult. in Newcastle—in which the trade of the kingdom was more fully represented than at any former period, every establishment, with the exception of one, being represented. It was unanimously resolved, that notwithstanding the increased cost of production, any advance in price was inexpedient, the more moderate portion deeming that any advantage to be gained by an increase of price would be more than counterbalanced by its tendency to check consumption. It was understood that there was no stock, either in the hands of the manufacturers or the merchants, and that the trade generally was in a very healthy and satisfactory state. So much for free trade in glass. —*Gateshead Observer.*

FALL OF A NEW CHURCH IN SHEFFIELD.—On Monday last the tower of an almost completed new church in Sheffield fell. It was in the course of erection in a part of the town called Moorfields. The foundation stone was laid on the 29th October, 1849, but owing to the difficulty of raising money in one of the poorest districts in the town, the work was only now approaching completion. The style of the edifice was the Early English, in the form of a cross, consisting of base, measuring 36 feet by 19 feet; transept, 16 feet by 12 feet; chancel, 24 feet by 19; and aisles on each side of the nave and chancel, 12 feet wide. At the intersection of the base and chancel with the transept was an octagon lantern tower, 19 feet square and 60 feet high. The church was to accommodate a congregation of 950 persons. When the workmen left off at the close of last week, the tower was at its full height, and ready for roofing, the remainder of the structure being already roofed. According to the *Morning Advertiser* the architect, in his report to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, speaks of there being no doubt that the recent heavy fall of rain had caused the ultimate destruction of the tower, but that the primary cause was the fact of the tower piers resting on different strata, one part being clay and the other rock.

THE BRISTOL HOSPITAL COMPETITION.—We continue to receive letters on the subject of this competition, strongly objecting to the ultimate decision. One writer says,—"A protest against it has been signed by all the architects, members of the society in the city, with the exception of the successful competitor. You will notice that the satisfaction you expressed as to the conduct of the committee is not participated in by the resident architects." We expressed no satisfaction as to the decision. What we said was, that notwithstanding the objectionable nature of the proceedings, as the committee had ultimately acted on the advice of two professional advisers, we were not prepared to question its justice. The competitors object, with reason, that the whole of the plans were not submitted to the referees.

SKATING GROUNDS.—In laying out parks in the vicinity of London, might not a certain space be levelled and surrounded by a bank a yard high, into which space, on the approach of frost, water may be introduced, to a uniform depth, whereby skating might be enjoyed in safety?—W.

LOUTH CHURCH, LINCOLNSHIRE.—Messrs Maughan and J. Fowler, architects, have drawn and lithographed for publication a tinted view in outline of the tower of St. James's Church, Louth, and a section of it. It is a very fine example of the Lincolnshire towers of the Perpendicular period, and the drawing is exceedingly well executed.

AGREEING TO DIFFER.—Favour me by inserting the following tenders for a farmhouse and buildings for Mr. Robert Greaves, Charlton, near Shaftesbury, Dorset. Mr. Dean, architect:—

Fletcher, Salisbury	£4,589 7 0
Brammell and Buxton, Manchester	3,142 0 0
Targett and Bustable, Shaftesbury	3,110 0 0
Miles, Shaftesbury	2,680 0 0
Hall, Queensborough (accepted)	2,670 0 0

ONE OF THE COMPETITORS.

D AND S TRAPS.—A correspondent, "C. J." remarks on the strangeness of the fact, that, notwithstanding the introducers of the cheap water-closets have adopted the S, or syphon trap, and their superiority has been over and over again pointed out, the D trap should be still in constant use in houses of the better class,—such fertile sources as they are of nuisance and expense to owners and occupiers. That plumbers should continue to apply them, he says, may be readily accounted for by the repeated demands made for their services in case of stoppage; but that any architect or clerk of the works should provide for them in their specification, or sanction their use, is not so easily explained.

OPENING OF THE NEW PUBLIC HALL, AT WISBECH.—The formal inauguration of this new building took place on Wednesday in last week, the Earl of Aborne in the chair, when Dr. Layard, M.P. delivered an inaugural address of varied interest. The building contains on the ground floor two rooms 22 feet by 19 feet, and 12 feet high. Above these is a lecture-room, 40 feet long by 22 feet wide, and 15 feet high; and at the back of these, are the dwelling and sleeping rooms of the housekeeper. The public hall is on the ground floor, and is approached by a large entrance hall. It is 87 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 27 feet high, and has a raised platform at the end in an arched recess with coved ceiling; under the platform are two retiring rooms. The hall, it is estimated, will seat from 500 to 1,000 persons, and afford standing for 2,000 persons.

DRAINAGE OF CARDIFF.—To such an extent has this matter been carried at Cardiff that the municipal elections have turned upon it. In the north ward, we are told, two "bricks" and two "pipes" appeared as candidates for seats at the council board. The "bricks" (Mr. C. Vachell and Dr. Edwards) and one of the "pipes" (Mr. Bradley) were successful. Messrs. David Lewis, William Pritchard, and John Owen ("bricks"), polled in the south ward between two and three times as many votes as an unfortunate "pipe" who opposed them, in the person of Mr. Price, one of the retiring councillors.

ST. PAUL'S.—Are means provided for the escape of the enormous volume of heated air from the building? If not, it will fill the whole of the dome to the level of the gas-flames around the whispering-gallery. Is there not an enormous wooden framework on the exterior of the inner dome? Is not the base of such framework bound around with an iron chain? If so, the wood must be highly dried and inflammable. The iron chain would expand dangerously by the heat. Will not the depression or lowering of the canopy on approaching Temple-bar be a mournful imitation of a lively pantomime trick?—*PRECAUTION.*

FATAL EARTH-SLIP AT SHEFFIELD.—While forming a deep foundation for a locomotive engine-shed on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, on Friday in last week, an earth-slip occurred which buried three men, who, with great labour and after many hours' inhumation, were extricated: two of them lived for a short time, but all of them are now dead.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—The first ordinary general meeting of the ensuing session will be held on Monday, the 15th inst. when a paper will be read containing suggestions for altering and enlarging the present National Gallery, by Mr. C. H. Smith.

MAPS OF PUBLIC ROADS.—A correspondent remarks that it is a strange circumstance that while the private rights of railway companies are looked after by the legislature, public rights are neglected, and he suggests that the routes of public roads ought to be recorded on maps, as those of railways are. Our correspondent also suggests that many public roads might be levelled or made less hilly and more passable by pauper labour.

ADOPTION OF THE BURIALS ACT IN MARYLEBONE.—At a vestry meeting on 10th inst. after some discussion it was unanimously resolved, "That the Metropolis Burials Act be adopted by the vestry."